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DON'T HURRY UPSTAIRS

A number of Grand Lodges have passed legislation to regulate advancement to the Higher Degrees. There is little antipathy to Higher Degrees, as such, in this - a great many active workers in Grand Lodges are themselves members of chapter, council, commandery, or consistory - but a desire to halt the mad rush that carries so many new Master Masons away from the lodge before they have learned the A B C's of it. Usually the remedy adopted is to set a time limit in which a lodge member cannot seek advancement. This is sound in purpose, but is it sufficient? How many Master Masons are any better grounded in Symbolical Masonry at the end of a year than at the end of a month ? It is not time that counts, but proficiency, so that a wiser plan is to seek means of training every lodge member in the life and purpose of his lodge. The remedy is not to get him more into lodge but to get more lodge into him.

All Higher Bodies, as they are called, should welcome every effort made to ground Masons more thoroughly in fundamentals. The lodge is never so much the friend of the chapter, council, commandery and consistory as when it insists that the one passport to more light up the hill is faithful service in its own work and degrees. The Mason who seeks to pass through the Higher Degrees before he has in his blood the lessons of Apprentice, Fellow and Master is like a boy trying to enter high school before he has studied his primer; he is as useless in the one as ridiculous in the other.